



SENATOR
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Friday, November 14, 2003

If you have any questions, comments, or requests please feel free to contact my office at any of the methods listed above.

- Michelle

MEGA EXTENDED

This week we worked to help ensure that Michigan will continue to be competitive in luring new businesses and convincing current businesses to expand their operations in the state. Reauthorization of the Michigan Economic Growth Authority Act was overwhelmingly approved Wednesday by the Senate. It extends MEGA's Single Business Tax credit to Dec. 31, 2009, provides additional oversight tools and improves the credit-granting ability of the program. MEGA is one of the main programs in our nine-point Republican "Job Opportunities for Business Success" plan. This legislation now goes to the House of Representatives.

IDENTITY THEFT PACKAGE APPROVED

The Judiciary Committee unanimously approved the main parts of the identity theft package this week, in what has been a major initiative from my Republican colleagues and I. During committee hearings, victims told my colleagues how they had their personal information taken and used to open fraudulent loan, credit card and cell phone accounts. In one man's case, he was left to pay back thousands of dollars in loans and still has problems with his credit cards despite how he proved conclusively years ago that he wasn't responsible for the charges. Other victims reported problems in getting police to investigate such crimes because existing state law doesn't make clear which police agencies have jurisdiction. The package now comes to the full Senate for consideration. If you would like to receive more information on how you can protect yourself from id theft, please call my office for a free brochure at 1-866-305-2135.

JOBS “CZARS” PROPOSED

The Senate Economic Development, Small Business and Regulatory Reform Committee approved creating two “czars” positions within the Michigan Economic Development Corporation this week that will focus on small-business start-ups and creating and retaining manufacturing jobs. The move comes at a time when 25 percent of the manufacturing jobs lost in the United States have come from Michigan. The positions are needed to ensure the regulatory and economic development arms of all state departments are doing what they can for the manufacturing industry as well as entrepreneurs. The bills now go before the full Senate.

PHONE CARDS DONATED TO MILITARY

In a special ceremony this week at the Capitol, members of the state Legislature presented the Michigan National Guard and Army Reserve with 3,000 phone cards that will be distributed to military members and their families. The cards, donated by DTE Energy and Verizon, are worth 60 minutes of domestic long distance.

DON'T BRING FIREWOOD TO HUNTING SITE WITH YOU

If you are traveling to your deer hunting destination this season, then the Michigan DNR reminds you that bringing firewood on your trip could ruin your favorite hunting place. Firewood transport is the top cause for the spread of a wide range of forest health threats throughout the state. Leading the state's 'least wanted' list is the Emerald Ash Borer, an invasive insect from China that has killed an estimated 6 million ash trees in Southeast and mid-Michigan in just the past five or six years.

DEER LICENSES STILL AVAILABLE

There are still private-land antler less deer licenses available for many of the Deer Management Units (DMU) in Michigan. These licenses may be purchased Over the Counter (OTC) from any of DNR license vendors, at a DNR Operations Service Center, at a DNR kiosk, or online at <http://www.mdnr-elicense.com/welcome.asp>. Hunters may purchase one license per day, with no limit on the number of private land antler less licenses a person can possess. The cost of a private land antler less license is \$7.00 for Michigan residents and \$70.00 for non-residents. No other license is required.

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